Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A computer system run-time platform for providing features and services for commerce software applications, and operatively adaptable to [[a]] any server platform capable of server-side presentation logic, the applications platform comprising:

a software portion configured to provide access to, and caching of, data elements, including a data and object repository, independent of the run-time platform for providing commerce software applications;

a software portion configured to inherit hierarchical application logic from the commerce applications platform;

a software portion configured to provide static and dynamic presentation data for presentation by any server capable of server-side presentation logic;

a software portion configured to maintain permanent and session application data persistent across user request boundaries during a single user session; and

a software portion configured to enable access to a business object during the user session.

2. (previously presented) The computer system platform of claim 1, wherein the data elements are stored within a computer-readable medium in the form of a data structure forming a list of at least one data element, wherein each data element comprises:

a first field containing data representing a data element name;

a second field containing data representing the data element type; and

a third field containing data representing the data element value.

3. (previously presented) The computer system platform of claim 1, further comprising a software portion configured as a rule engine for evaluating rule parameters.

4. (previously presented) The computer system platform of claim 1, further comprising a data management software portion configured to store and retrieve data during a user session.

5. (previously presented) The computer system platform of claim 1, further comprising user a software portion configured to provide or deny a user access to the commerce software applications.

6. (previously presented) The computer system platform of claim 1, further comprising a software portion configured to transfer data to and from a data store.

7. (previously presented) The computer system platform of claim 6, wherein the data store further comprises LDAP data stores.

8. (previously presented) The computer system platform of claim 6, wherein the data store further comprises database data stores.

9. (previously presented) The computer system platform of claim 1, wherein the business object is cached during the user session.

10. (currently amended) A method for implementing a first software application resident on a commerce application platform wherein the commerce application's platform is a run-time platform configured to provide access to data

elements, hierarchical inheritance of the first software application logic, static and dynamic presentation data, access to business objects, and access to permanent and session application data during a single user session, the method comprising:

providing presentation information by the first software application seeking input data from a user;

receiving input data from a data repository ~~the user~~ for use by the first software application, wherein the data repository is independent of the commerce application platform;

passing the input data to the commerce application platform for validation;

validating the data by the commerce application platform;

providing, by the commerce application platform, business object functionality to the application;

preparing presentation information by the application based upon the business object functionality for presentation by any server capable of server-side presentation logic; and

accessing the permanent and session application data persistent across user request boundaries during the single user session.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of providing presentation information further comprises providing static and dynamic presentation data.

12. (Original) The method claim 10, wherein the passing of input data further comprises passing user identification information.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the passing of input data further comprises passing data corresponding to commerce functionality.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of validating the data further comprises invoking a rule engine to determine a validation result.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of creating, by the commerce application platform, a business object for providing business functionality.

16. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of accessing, by the commerce application platform, an existing business object.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of implementing a second software application on the commerce application platform.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of implementing a second software application by concurrently implementing the first software application and the second software application.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of accessing a business object by both the first and the second software applications.

21. (currently amended) A method for providing services to a first software application residing on a commerce application platform wherein the commerce applications platform is a run-time platform configured to provide access to data elements, hierarchical inheritance of the first software application logic, static and dynamic presentation data for presentation by any server capable of server-side presentation logic, access to business objects, and access permanent and session application data during a single user session, the method comprising:

receiving from the application input data for validation from a data repository, wherein the data repository is independent of the commerce application platform;

validating the input data;

providing business object functionality to the application; and

accessing the permanent and session application data persistent across user request boundaries during the single user session.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the input data received from the application relates to a commerce application function.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the input data received from the application includes user identification information.

24. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of validating the input data further comprises invoking a rule engine to determine a validation result.

25. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of creating a new business object.

26. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of accessing an existing business object.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of creating a persistent object based on a persistent object framework.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of receiving input data from a second application on the commerce application platform.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of receiving input data from the first software application further comprises concurrently receiving input data from a second software application.

32. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of providing business object functionality to the application further comprises providing the same business object functionality to a second software application.